

ALL PARIS TALKS ABOUT DREYFUS

Papers Discuss His Case to the Exclusion of Other Matters.

FRANCE IN THE THROES OF AGITATION

Two Editors Arrange for a Meeting With Pistols.

Significant Utterances of a Person Behind the Scenes—Court-Martial to Inquire Into the Charges Against Count Esterhazy—Both Sides Appear to Be Pleased With the Announcement—Majority of Deputies Sustain the Government.

(Copyright, 1897, by the Associated Press.)

Paris, Dec. 4, 1897.
All political and social interests continue to be merged in the case of Alfred Dreyfus, the former captain of French artillery, who is alleged to have been unjustly sentenced to imprisonment for life on the charge of having sold important plans of the French War Department to agents of a foreign power. Everything else is neglected. The journals still devote endless columns in the biggest type to the affairs of Dreyfus, his friends and enemies and everybody in any way connected with the case.

Everybody seems to be mixed up in the case, from the Pope to Emperor William of Germany, and syndicates and secret societies are said to be hard at work spending millions on one side or the other and all France is in the throes of an agitation which is unparalleled since the days of Danton and Robespierre.

According to the Daily Telegraph of London, on Thursday last, copies of which paper have been passed around here by those interested in the subject, a person who is really behind the scenes says: "Undoubtedly some person or persons did get very important facts regarding the (French) military plans and communicated them to the German War office, within a fortnight after the decision in question had been taken. If the extent to which the odious treason was committed and the results it has produced in a neighboring country were fully made known, I doubt whether, knowing my countrymen as I do, that they would remain satisfied with the punishment of one man. They would call for a radical change in the entire system and possibly for more." This guilt may be brought home to another or to others, without necessarily establishing the innocence of Dreyfus, who is lost beyond help and hope.

The Military Governor of Paris, Gen. Sausser, has ordered the formation of a court-martial to examine into the charges brought against Count Ferdinand Esterhazy, formerly aide-de-camp and Major of the French army, who is accused of writing the letter which brought about the sentencing of Dreyfus to imprisonment for life, who is alleged to have admitted the authorship of letters published by the Figaro recently, bitterly reflecting upon France and the French army.

Both sides profess to be pleased with the announcement. The anti-Dreyfusians contend that the order of Gen. Sausser cannot be construed as implying doubt as to the validity of the sentence imposed upon Dreyfus and that the Esterhazy inquiry was not concerned with the Dreyfus case but was merely a sequel to the inquiry of Gen. Pelloux.

On the other hand the Dreyfusians assert that the inquiry will necessitate the introduction of expert evidence concerning the handwriting of the memorandum which convicted Dreyfus, proving it to be in Esterhazy's handwriting and they also propose to introduce evidence that documents which were not submitted for the inspection of Dreyfus or his counsel, at the time of his trial by court-martial, were communicated to the officers composing the court. There seems to be no doubt that this was done and lawyers who have been questioned on the subject say it invalidates the court-martial.

The case of Dreyfus was discussed in the Chamber of Deputies to-day and occasionally gave rise to heated utterances. A good majority of the deputies, however, sustained the stand in the matter taken by the Government.

As a result of some hot words exchanged during the Dreyfus debate in the Chamber of Deputies to-day Joseph Reinach, Republican member representing the district of Digne, a well known newspaper man and author and editor of the *Republique Francaise*, sent his seconds to M. Millerand, the well known Socialist Republican and editor of the *Petite Republique Francaise*. A duel with pistols has been arranged to take place between the men.

M. Reinach has already fought duels with M. Magnier and Paul de Roulde.

SLOSSON IS CHAMPION.
New York, Dec. 4.—By defeating Champion Frank Ives, George F. Slosson won the series in the billiard tournament for the championship of

the world. During this series the "student" has won against all of his opponents, taking four games. Tonight's game was one of the finest exhibitions ever given here. Ives held the lead until the very last inning, being within two of the game when Slosson, far behind, took up his cue. The "student," by marvelous work, ran out and won with sixty points in the forty-first inning. Slosson takes second place with three games won. Ives third, Dyer fourth and Sutton, who lost all his games, last. Ives wins the best grand average prize and the prize for the highest run, which is the record, 140.

HUNDREDS HOMELESS.

Fire in a Cuban Town Destroys 110 Houses—Smallpox Spreading in Pinar del Rio.

Havana, Dec. 4.—News has been received here of a fire which occurred yesterday at Jaruco, a town of 10,000 inhabitants, in this province. About 110 houses were destroyed, with nearly all their contents. No accurate estimate of the amount of damage can be made. Hundreds of families have been rendered homeless and the situation at Jaruco is very distressing. The fire originated through an accident.

According to an announcement issued from Spanish headquarters this afternoon, the Spanish forces belonging to the Manzanillo division have had a sharp engagement with the insurgents at Piedra, province of Santiago de Cuba, with the result that they captured all the positions of the army and compelled the insurgents to retreat with numerous loss. "Owing to an accident to the field column," the announcement continues, "twelve soldiers were killed and Major La Torre, Drs. Matorell and Sibail, a chaplain attached to the 14th Battalion, and thirty-eight soldiers were wounded."

The central plantations of the Matanzas-Valiente-Union district and those of the Nenah-Matanzas district have commenced raiding cane.

It is reported that the leader, Mario Belmonte, a brother-in-law of General Antonio Maceo, died recently from illness in the insurgent camp in Puerto Principe.

Reports from Pinar del Rio city say that smallpox is rapidly spreading there and that thirty deaths occurred during the same cause are reported from other towns. Dr. Jover, of the Havana Sanitary Board, has been commissioned to proceed to Pinar del Rio for the purpose of vaccinating the inhabitants and thus preventing the further spread of the scourge.

It is announced that the grinding of sugar cane will be begun before December 15 on the central plantations of Constancia, Andrieta and Dos Hermanos, in the Cienfuegos district.

NEWS FROM THE ORIENT.

Riot in Yokohama—Fire Destroys Four Hundred Houses—Shaking Up in Japanese Ministerial Circles.

San Francisco, Dec. 4.—The steamer City of Peking has arrived to-day from Yokohama and Hong Kong, bringing the following Oriental advices:
A serious riot occurred in Yokohama on the night of November 14th, between about fifty inmates of the Seamen's boarding house and a number of the workmen from the Yokohama dock yards. Sticks, stones, clubs and swords were freely used and many of the participants were injured.

At the request of the Imperial University, the Japanese Foreign office has instructed Minister Kato in London to engage a professor on the science of ship-building, in England.

Fire destroyed over 100 dwellings at Onachi, Awamori, on the afternoon of November 14th.

On November 12th an attempt was made to blow up the railway station at Ruzhashima, on the Hakkyo-sen line with dynamite. No one was injured. Ten arrests were made upon suspicion.

The recent ministerial crisis in Japan resulted in Count Okuma being relieved of his post of Minister of Foreign Affairs and the appointment of Baron Nishi Tokuhara, a member of the privy council and formerly Minister to Russia.

It is reported in the Chinese press that Yank, Secretary of the Taung-Li-Yamen, has presented a striking memorial to the Throne in connection with the advisability of establishing a gold coinage in China. It is asserted in all seriousness that Emperor has given his sanction to the proposition, but the Chinese Gazette, commenting upon the subject says that, seeing how little gold there is in China, the prospect of its being carried out are very slight.

DAUNTLESS EXPEDITION LANDED.

Spanish Government Will Claim Damages—Commander Pillsbury Has Doubts on the Subject.

Madrid, Dec. 4.—The Spanish Government, it is semi-officially announced, has received details of the landing of an expedition in Cuba from the American steamer Dauntless, and it is understood the Spanish Minister at Washington, Senor Dupuy Delorme, will shortly present in this connection a claim for damages from the United States.

Washington dispatches, printed to-day, chronicle the fact that Commander Pillsbury, of the United States steamship Vesuvius, which has been assigned patrol duty off the coast of Florida recently, with the view of preventing the departure of filibustering expeditions, has written a letter to the Navy Department detailing the movements of the Dauntless since November 14th, showing her to have been repeatedly searched and apparently proving that the steamer has not been engaged within the time indicated in the landing of the filibustering expeditions on the coast of Cuba.

AUSTRIAN EMPIRE TOTTERING TO ITS FALL

The Next Few Hours May Witness a Historic Revolution.

POSSIBLE REVISION OF THE MAP OF EUROPE

Relations Between Austria and Hungary Strained to The Last Point.

Civil War Likely to Break Out at Any Moment—Rapture Will Involve Europe in Terrible Possibilities—Only Hope of Escape Is in the Personal Ascendancy of the Old Emperor—Affair in England.

(Copyright, 1897, by Associated Press.)

London, December 4, 1897.
International questions have been temporarily overshadowed by the gravity of the situation in Austria, where things are as gloomy as imaginable. In addition to the imminence of a civil war, the next few hours may possibly witness a historic revolution in the relations between Austria and Hungary, which might mean the reconstruction of the map of Europe.

The question of the provisional Ausgleich bill (or agreement to prolong for a year, instead of ten years, the compact between Austria and Hungary, pending the perfecting of arrangements for a longer compact) is, if possible, a question even more grave than the threatened civil war. The Hungarian Diet has given Baron Von Gautsch Von Frankenthurn, the Austrian Premier, until Monday next in which to state whether he can reasonably expect the Ausgleich bill to pass, and if failing a decisive answer, Baron Banffy, the Hungarian Premier, will introduce on Monday a bill whereby Hungary will act independently as regards the duties to be levied, continuance of commercial relations with Austria and the renewal of the charter of the Austro-Hungarian bank. The compact between the two portions of the dual State thus lapses, and though the status quo may be maintained temporarily, Hungary will establish her claim to the right of independently disposing of those questions. It is easy to see that victory will only win for the Hungarians' appetite and that it will be but a short step to the dissolution of Austria, which, in turn, will hurl Europe into a furnace of terrible possibilities.

Apparently the only hope of escape is that the personal ascendancy of the old Emperor will once again enable him to solve an apparently impossible solution. Failing in this, the Ausgleich will be dissolved and a reign of absolutism will begin in Austria and, technically Hungary will have resumed her independence.

The Indian war continues on the old lines. The British advances and subsequent retirements leave but a small impression on the tribesmen, who will not submit. The whole warfare is discouraging, as it promises to be inconclusive and looks as though the results might be summed up in a nutshell—bloody war, weakened frontier, angered neighbors, threatening bill.

The fact that the conference has ended in a fiasco is no surprise, though much regretted. The extreme gravity of the situation cannot be overestimated.

The whole aspect of the industrial world is most depressing. In addition to the engineering troubles, the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants has issued strike notices to 120,000 of its members, and the cotton industry is also threatened with paralysis. The contending factions are adamant; the union utterly refuse to arbitrate.

CARS CRASH TOGETHER.

The Result Is Three Fatalities, Ten Serious Injuries and Many More Hurt to a Less Extent.

Detroit, Mich., Dec. 4.—Two suburban cars carrying about 20 passengers, and both running at a speed of 25 miles an hour, collided on the Detroit and Oakland electric railroad this afternoon. Three men were killed and a score of persons injured, ten of them seriously. The exact cause of the accident is as yet in doubt. According to the schedule, a car leaves each end, Detroit and Pontiac, every hour, and there are three sidings along the road. To-day the cars were behind time. The one bound southward for Detroit had passed an out-bound car at the switch two miles from Pontiac, the crew apparently being ignorant of the fact that another out-bound car was approaching them less than two miles distant, although it is claimed that they should have known from orders sent from Birmingham. The weather was foggy and the rails slippery from the sleet which had been falling.

The collision occurred near a gravel pit about midway between Pontiac and Birmingham, at the foot of two steep grades, down which the fatal cars ran at full speed. The impact was terrific. The cars were driven half through each other and crushed to pieces.

Superintendent Savage was in the locomotive's vestibule operating the out-bound car. Both his legs were cut off

and his body was frightfully mangled. Motorman McHugh, who stood behind Savage, narrowly escaped a similar fate. John Kelly was evidently the only passenger who saw the northbound car approaching. He rushed for the vestibule door, and he and Motorman Whitehead were struggling together to get out of the door when the crash came. Both were killed. Kelly's head and shoulders were jammed out of the vestibule window, and his neck was broken. Whitehead's head was cut open and his chest crushed.

Had not been for the stout construction of the cars, both of which were new, it is doubtful whether any of the occupants would have escaped alive. As it was, nearly all of the fourteen passengers in the southbound car suffered some injury. Some of the injured were taken to farm houses, others brought to city hospitals.

The company officials are investigating as to the responsibility for the disaster, and a coroner's jury has already been impaneled. The Detroit, Birmingham and Pontiac road is a separate suburban enterprise. Its cars enter the city over the Woodward avenue street car line.

NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE.

Next Meeting to Be Held in Elizabeth City—Appointments Will Be Announced Monday.

Raleigh, N. C., Dec. 4.—The morning session of the North Carolina Methodist Conference to-day accepted an invitation to meet next year at Elizabeth City. The reports from the preachers were concluded. Rev. J. L. Bruce, a returned missionary from Brazil, spoke on the mission work of Methodism in that country.

In the afternoon, the report on temperance, favoring using every effort to have the injurious effects of alcoholic drinks taught in public schools, was adopted.

The Epworth League report recommended an Epworth League and Sunday school conference.

In the evening the report was read of the board of missions, which was followed by an address followed by Rev. Dr. Atkins of Nashville, secretary of the Sunday School Board of the M. E. Church, South. The address was strong, emphasizing the fact the gospel of missions should be preached in contradistinction to the gospel of collections, "preach missions first," he said, "and let collections follow."

The Conference will make appointments Monday and then adjourn to meet at Elizabeth City next year.

SAD LEAVE TAKING.

President McKinley Left His Mother With the Prospect That He Would Not See Her Alive Again.

Canton, O., Dec. 4.—Sadder scenes were never witnessed than the leave taking of President McKinley from his mother this afternoon. The carriage was early announced to convey to the special car at the Pennsylvania depot, awaiting the arrival of the regular East-bound train. But to the very last possible moment the President remained at the old homestead.

Before leaving the house he and other members of the family went to the bedside of the dying mother. He looked at her long, spoke to her lovingly and stooped and tenderly kissed her. There was no response, no movement to indicate that she recognized her son. He remained in a stooped posture for some time hoping that he might receive some sign that she knew or felt his presence. It did not come. With feeling of deepest emotion he at last left the room.

It was a strange coincidence that almost immediately following the departure of the President the mother should suffer a relapse. Within half an hour after he left the city the illness of the mother took a turn for the worse. The attending physician declared it was a relapse, which for a time threatened to extinguish the faintly flickering flame of life. Once more however, the rugged constitution of the aged woman withstood the assault.

She rallied and was brought back to the condition in which she had been for nearly twenty hours, a condition of quiet and seemingly restful sleep, but which it was fully realized was slowly burning out the vital spark of life. In that condition she was to-night. How long it might continue no one could tell.

The McKinley house with its throngs of people, the noise and the restlessness of the night, the respiration were much improved, giving some reason to hope that she may survive the night.

NEW CAUSE FOR EXCITEMENT.

Weyler's Words at Majorena—Foreign Help Not Needed in Cuba.

Madrid, Dec. 4.—The newspapers of this city are excited over the mysterious words attributed to General Weyler after he had proposed the toast at a military club banquet in his honor, at Palma, Island of Majorca. The General is quoted as having added: "So long as their Majesties are the heads of the state they will be the heads of the country and of the army."

The Minister for the Colonies, Senor Moret, has received a dispatch from Marshal Blanco, the Captain General of Cuba, saying: "I have to-day sent the following telegram to our minister at Washington: 'There is no need for foreign help to provide for the wants of this island or its inhabitants. The government, from its own resources, is endeavoring to provide for the necessities, the need of which, moreover, is diminishing daily.'"

The floating treasury debt was increased during the month of November by 25,500,000 pesetas.

UPRISING THREATENED.

San Francisco, Dec. 4.—The latest mail from Guatemala conveys the information that President Barrios is threatened with another uprising.

REFORMERS RULE THE LEGISLATURE

Strong Disposition to Abolish Several State Offices.

BRISK DISCUSSION OF MR. COOKE'S BILL

Norfolk and Portsmouth Belt Line Railway to Be Chartered.

Numerous Changes to Be Made in Committee Chairmanships—Personal Sketches—Bill to Regulate the Size of Truck Barrels—Vote on Constitutional Convention Cause Vassed—Norfolk Man on Veterans' History Committee.

(Special Dispatch to The Virginian.)

Richmond, Va., Dec. 4, 1897.
Mr. Cooke, of Norfolk, offered a bill in the House to-day to amend the charter of the Southampton and Atlantic Railway company. One amendment changes the name to the Norfolk and Portsmouth Belt Line Railroad company. The corporations are Alvah H. Martin, Patrick Mathews, Franklin D. Gill, Benjamin D. White, A. T. Herbert and T. J. Wool. It is provided that the capital stock shall be not less than \$20,000 nor more than \$500,000. The company is authorized to construct a railway from Pinner's Point, and the Norfolk and Carolina railroad, by such route as the directors may select through Norfolk county, across the Southern Branch of the Elizabeth river, to a point on the Norfolk and Western, between the Eastern and Southern Branches of the Elizabeth river. Authority is given to construct a bridge across the Elizabeth river; to build and operate a tramway not exceeding ten miles in length. Work is to commence next April and it is to be completed within five years from the passage of the act.

There was not very much of public interest in the Legislature to-day. The Senate refused to concur in Mr. Parker's resolution providing for a joint special committee to consider amendments to the constitution, and it was referred. Mr. Saunders' resolution for a joint committee to investigate and report as to the reduction of criminal expenses was also referred in the Senate.

The retrenchment and reform fever appears to be spreading. Mr. Mason, of the Senate, offered a resolution looking to the appointment of a joint special committee to make a report as to how State, county and municipal offices may be consolidated or abolished in order to save money to the Commonwealth. This paper at the author's request was referred to a committee.

Senator Blakey endeavored to have a special committee appointed at once to report as to whether or not the office of second Auditor should be abolished. He was unsuccessful and his resolution was referred to a standing committee.

It looks as if the Legislature might abolish several offices. In fact, there is danger of the reformers running almost mad. Not only is the office of second Auditor in danger, but the positions of Adjutant-General, Register of Land Office and Commissioner of Agriculture may be abolished. It is almost certain that the Board of Agriculture appears to be the head of the retrenchment and reform element in the Senate. Should the position of Register of Land Office be abolished the Secretary of the Commonwealth will be designated to discharge the duties now imposed upon the Register.

A lively debate in the House to-day over Mr. Cooke's bill to require corporations asking a renewal of their charters to pay the same fees as companies granted new charters. Mr. Ryan tried to have the bill amended so as not to include corporations that had begun work, but he was unsuccessful in his fight. Mr. Cooke's bill passed by an overwhelming majority. It will bring considerable money into the State Treasury.

It leaked out to-night that there will be a shaking up of the chairmanships of the Senate Committees. Senator Flood, as expected, will be chairman of the Elections Committee and therefore the Democratic leader on the floor. Senator Fairfax, of Loudoun, is stated for the chairmanship of the Finance Committee, instead of Senator Wickham, of Hanover, who held it last session. Mr. Wickham has been made president pro tem of the Senate and the Steering Committee considered that he was not entitled to a chairmanship. Senator McIlwaine, of Petersburg, will receive the Judiciary Chairmanship, although Senator Sands, of Richmond, was in line for promotion. Mr. Sands will remain as chairman of the Committee on General Laws. Senator Mushback, of Alexandria, will retain his old chairmanship.

One of the most wide-awake members of this General Assembly is the Hon. Charles T. Bland, of Portsmouth. He is just as energetic as he was last session, when he won an enviable reputation as a speaker. A hustler and around first-class representative. He has in course of preparation a bill in reference to the much-discussed and complicated question of delinquent

lands which, he thinks, will save the State annually \$15,000 or more.

The Hon. Merritt Cooke is guarding the Treasury with a watchful eye, and at to-day's session he had a great battle of words with Speaker Ryan in reference to the payment of charter fees on all charters granted or renewed. He is a good representative and one of the very best champions of the Finance Committee of the House of Delegates has ever had. He has no favorites—"all charters look alike to him"—and it will not be his fault if many dollars from this source are not placed in the State Treasury.

The Hon. Charles G. Kizer is fast getting accustomed to speak, and he will not be long before he will be heard on the floor of the House battling for the rights of the people. He has several important bills in his inside coat pocket, which he will offer at the proper time. He is popular now and as the year advances will become more so from the fact that his pleasant manner attracts to him friends worth having.

Delegate Matthews, of Accomac, introduced a bill to regulate the size of barrels used for shipment of agricultural products, commonly called truck. The measure provided that it should be unlawful for any person to use in such shipments a barrel of less size and dimensions than as follows: Heads and ends not less than seventeen inches, staves not less than twenty-seven and one-half inches, inside measurement at bulge not less than eighteen and one-half inches. Any person violating the above provisions shall be fined not less than one nor more than three dollars, and any person or corporation manufacturing or offering for sale, after August 16th 1898, shall be liable to the same punishment.

Senator Letcher from the committee to canvass the vote on the question of calling a convention to amend the Constitution, made the following report:

Total vote cast 121,779
For 82,454
Against 39,325

There will, of course, be many changes made in the force under the Superintendent of the Penitentiary after January 1st. Mr. Allen W. Finch, of Botetourt, will be made manager of the penitentiary farm, and Mr. Sam Donald, of Augusta, will be Superintendent. Helms' assistants will be gentlemen selected from the race in Major Helms' favor. It is thought Dr. James Abbott, of Appomattox, will be appointed physician at the farm.

The following bills were offered in the Senate:

By Mr. Clayton—To require clubs and corporations to obtain license to sell, dispense or distribute, or give away wines and ardent spirits, malt liquors or any mixture thereof, alcoholic liquors, bitters containing alcohol or fruits preserved in ardent spirits.

By Mr. Lowry—To amend the act regarding the making of husband and wife competent witnesses for or against each other in civil cases.

By Mr. Clayton—To repeal the act providing for a State Board of Agriculture and making appropriations therefor.

By Mr. Clayton—To provide agricultural, manufacturing and mineral interests in Virginia—this bill confers upon the Board of Control of the Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical Institute at Blacksburg, the duties now belonging to the Board of Agriculture.

By Mr. Clayton—To allow corrections of assessment in cases where land is assessed to the proper owner at the same time the same land is assessed to another person at any time after discovery of such erroneous assessment.

By Mr. Maynard—To authorize the sale of an estate real or personal, given by deed or will to a person for life with the vested remainder to another, whether the vested remainderman be an infant or adult.

The committee appointed to investigate the charges made against members of the History Committee of the Grand Camp of Confederate Veterans will meet at Murphy's Hotel next Tuesday morning. Those who constitute the committee are as follows: Major Micajah Woods, of Charlottesville; Judge Berryman Green, of Danville; Major Washington Taylor, of Norfolk; Colonel W. A. Smoot, of Alexandria; and Mr. O. B. Morgan, of Petersburg. It is not known who will be asked to become witnesses General T. A. Brander, of Richmond, is the author of the charges.

The United States Tobacco company has been assigned for \$20,000. This company up to a few years ago was known as the J. W. Light company, and did a very large business. When least expected Mr. Wright lost the controlling interest in the company, and he and his chief assistants were ousted, the company was reorganized under a new name and the business began to fall off. Mr. Fred S. Meyers was the president of the concern. Creditors are to be paid without preference and ratably.

THE FORTHCOMING MESSAGE.

The President's Idea About Exchanging Gold and Greenbacks.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 4.—President McKinley in his forthcoming message to Congress will not discuss in a significant way the recent monetary negotiations of the Wolcott monetary Commission, but will casually refer to it. The chief interest in the financial part of his message will attach to a recommendation that gold shall be paid only shall be paid only for gold. The President does not believe that Congress will retire the notes and that Congress will that where there is a constant surplus of receipts over expenditures and an exchange of gold and notes there is no longer any menace to the country. He does not contemplate the retirement of the currency, but only a change of classification for the always. He is retired, there would always be a talk of contraction of the currency, and he does believe that if gold and greenbacks are made interchangeable and kept in a class by themselves no danger need be apprehended from that source.

After a man succeeds in printing one kiss upon a girl's lips it's an easy matter to run off a large edition.

OPENING OF THE GERMAN REICHSTAG

Emperor's Spectacular Performance Failed of Its Object.

DELEGATES OPENLY CRITICIZE THE SPEECH

Chasm Between the Emperor and the Nation's Representatives.

Enormous Increase of the National Debt Since His Majesty's Accession—Pet Schemes of the Government Will Be Successfully Opposed—Downfall of Count Bismarck Keenly Welcomed With Rejoicing—Proposed Increase of Chancellor's Salary.

(Copyright, 1897, by Associated Press.)

Berlin, December 4, 1897.
Politically this has been a very lively week in Germany, the opening of the Reichstag being the first feature of importance, with the Chinese question a good second. When he made his speech from the throne in the White Hall of the castle on Tuesday, Emperor William had everything arranged to render the scene impressive. On the landing of the stairs hung a colossal painting, showing the Emperor taking the oath on the colors, in the presence of the same Reichstag, but the effect was wholly inadequate. The majority of the delegates on leaving the castle, openly and vigorously criticized the speech.

The Cologne Volks Zeitung, commenting on the whole scene, says: "There is a chasm between the Emperor and the nation's representatives." Continuing the Volks Zeitung reminds His Majesty that since his accession the Empire's debt has been increased by 1,500,000,000 marks, almost exclusively for military and naval purposes.

As a matter of fact this Reichstag will stand or fall with the two important bills introduced by the Government on the opening day—the naval bill and the bill for the reform of military trials—and neither will pass in the present shape. That may be safely predicted. Talks which the correspondent here of the Associated Press has had with the leaders of a majority of the parties make it evident that the opposition to the Government bills will not be overcome.

One of the Government's arguments in the memorial accompanying the bill is emigration. Reviewing the past flow to the United States, it expresses the hope that with a larger navy and a consequent larger sea trade this migration may be more largely diverted to the German colonies. The first reading of the naval bill will take place on Monday, but unless the government is able to accelerate the proceedings a vote cannot be taken until March 15.

In regard to the statements of the German press, the correspondent here of the Associated Press learns that no instructions regarding China have been sent to the United States Ambassador, Andrew D. White, from Washington.

The downfall of Count Bismarck, the late Austrian Premier, was received with rejoicing in Germany. The Austrians of Berlin illuminated their houses in honor of the event and the entire press expressed satisfaction. Even the Government newspapers, which have hitherto been very cautious, express pleasure at the Count's retirement from power.

The Centre party has reintroduced the bill providing for the readmission of Jesuits into Germany.

The budget contains an item fixing the salary of the Imperial Chancellor at 100,000 marks instead of 54,000 marks. It is said the increase is in accordance with a promise the Emperor made Prince Hohenzollern, his present salary being inadequate, in view of the lavish entertainments expected of his office. The item will be the subject of lively attacks upon the part of the Socialists and Radicals.

POPE IN POOR HEALTH.

London, Dec. 4.—A dispatch to the Pall Mall Gazette from Rome, published this afternoon, says that the Pope has not been enjoying his usual health recently. Dr. Lippini, the Pope's physician, it is added, has forbidden His Holiness to take part in any tiring function, and, therefore, the programme mapped out for the ceremonies which were to take place on the sixtieth anniversary of the celebration of the first mass of Leo XIII. has been abandoned.

GERMAN REINFORCEMENTS FOR CHINA.

Berlin, Dec. 4.—The German reinforcements which will soon be sent to Kiau Chou bay consist of four companies of marines, consisting of 25 officers and 1,200 men, a company of naval artillery numbering 200 men, and several pieces of field artillery and a number of machine guns.

NEW POSTMASTERS.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 4.—The following fourth-class postmasters in Virginia have been appointed:
Rural: John W. Ruffin; Taylors: John W. Kinsey; Wallington: M. D. Turner.